

# **Congleton Green Group – Report to Community and Environment 3/6/21**

## **E-learning course**

The E-learning course is almost ready; just a few final adjustments, corrections and additions. The plan is to then to ask a few carefully selected people to complete the course and provide feedback before we release it to the general public. The course will need to be updated fairly regularly due to nature of the material we are discussing as the situation and technology are constantly changing.

## **Town Hall energy audit**

At the beginning of March our Town Hall energy certificate was reassessed. The Town Hall now has an operational grade rating of C which is valid until 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The old certificate only gave the TH a rating of D which is apparently a typical rating for a public building. (ie a score of 100 compared with our score of 68) We are aware there are still many changes we need to make to improve the energy rating of the TH but as these improvements involving considerable investment there is now a 5 year plan incorporating this work with the maintenance programme. Currently no grant seems to be available for this type of work but the situation may change. The certificate came with a report making various recommendations to improve the energy efficiency of the TH, some of which we had already considered; and others will be incorporated into our programme.

## **Green Fayre**

The plan is to hold a Green Fayre in the Town Hall on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October; all day on the Friday and then the Saturday morning. (The TH was already booked for Saturday pm.) Some exhibitors have already booked places and more are welcome. It is hoped to have some activities outside on a closed High Street. This will help to promote the COP26 event.

## **Tree planting**

The tree planting season is finished for now but we are already looking for sites for the autumn. Especially on private land. We will need to care for the trees on all the current sites, especially if we have a dry summer and some replanting is likely to be needed. There are also plans to sow wild flowers and some hedging.

The 'Congleton Tree group' would also like to work with the town council and people of Congleton to take part in the Queen's Green Canopy scheme to mark her Platinum jubilee (70 years on the throne). This initiative will run from October 2021 until the end of 2022.

The Green Group are planning to have a meeting during June when we hope Joe Pimblett will speak to the group about the possibility of re-establishing an area of peat bog in Cheshire. Peat is an excellent carbon store as it absorbs carbon dioxide and is also a great wildlife habitat.

Margaret Gartside (chair)